

During this week the opera has attracted the fashionables and the lovers of music, but two of the theaters have done good business because they presented plays that were unusually attractive. One was the National, where Mr. Herne's "Shore Acres," in some respects the best American play written, delighted large audiences, and the other was the Columbia, where Mr. Roland Reed and his company furnished clean and wholesome fun, though of the farcical order, to people who filled the theater at every performance.

Next week two plays new to the city will be presented-"Cumberland '61" at the Lafayette, and "What Happened to Jones" at the National. The Columbia will also present a new attraction in the representation of the "Passion Play," through the medium of the cinematograph, accompanied with a descriptive lecture by Prof. Lacey. This is the second city visited by this representation, the first having been Philadelphia, where it created the greatest interest not only among students of biblical literature and the religious community generally, but with the public at large.

During the run of Cumberland, '61, at the Fourteenth Street Theater, New York, there was an ir cident not down on the program. In the scene of the burning of the bridge and forest Edgar L. Davenport and Charles Craig have a hand-to-hand fight en the bridge. During the fight Mr. Davenpert tries to throw the old Kentucky mountaineer off the bridge and into the ravine below, but does not succeed. Davenport gave Craig a harder fight than usual, and actually threw him off the bridge and into the ravine. The spectators cheered, but Mr. Craig was not so enthusiastic. He received a bad shaking up and numerous bruises on his arms and legs.

If man were "judged by his works," Geo. H. Broadhurst would be a round and jovial individual, wreathed in perpetual smiles and given to firing off witticisms with the rapidity of a Gatling gun. But in point of fact, the real Broadhurst, the author of happenings to "Jones" and the doings of "Mr. Wright," is a rather solemn, bespectacled individual, intensely sensitive

and shy as a rural bridegroom.

In point of fact, there is no public character which is the subject of more frequent speculation than a dramatic author. Having witnessed the product of his pen, the spectator is filled with curiosity as to what sort of a looking individual the author really is. Some look upon an author with no slight degree of contempt, and others with admiration, but they all agree in believing him to be something different from the generality of people; and it is remarkwith what greediness they attend to any little anecdotes which they can pick concerning his life and conversation. is, indeed, a kind of ideal being, of which people conceive very different no-tions. By some he is supposed never "to stir out of the garret," as in the good old days, to wear a rusty black coat, solled linen, darned stockings and to be in per-petual want of all necessaries, as well as the conveniences in life, while others re-gard him as a creature superior to the rest of mortals and endowed with something more than reason. One party, therefore, is surprised to see him walk abroad and appear as well dressed as other people; and another is disappointed when it finds him talk and act and fill the "office of life" no better than any other individual in this "work-a-day world." In short, authors are rarely, in their outward aspect, at all like what one might suppose from their works. Hoyt is funereal, Du Souchet sphinx-like and Broadhurst coy and backward.

GRAND OPERA.-The closing performance of the grand opera season at the Lafavette Square Opera House last night attracted the largest and most brilliant audience of the week and in spots the interpretation of Gounod's "Faust" was in keeping with the audience. "Faust" is wonderfully popular, for Goethe's charming story is set to exquisite melody, which never palls upon the ear. It affords opportunity for great lyric as well as dramatic ability, and calls for at least five artists of the first rank. One seldom hears that number in the cast of "Faust," and last night only brought out three-fifths of the actual requirement, but those three were great in their respective

First, of course, was Melba, whose perfect voice is eminently fitted for the bril-liant music of Marguerite's role. Technically it is perfect in its tone, its purity, its flexibility and its power. It is the most marvelous piece of mechanism ever put in a woman's throat. There is no vocal embroidery or pyrotechnics of which it is not capable, and its volume soars clear and true above chorus and orchestra in the fertissimo passages. Mme. Melba's weak-nesses are temperamental. There is no sympathetic quality in her voice, and she dazzles and bewilders the listener by its brilliancy and mechanical perfection, but never touches his feelings by any subtle power of sympathy or personal magnetism. While something of this kind has been said in The Star before in speaking of Melba, it has perhaps never been put so plainly, and her deficiencies as well as her great ex-cellencies are especially brought to mind now in the consideration of last night's performance in "Faust."

There never was but one perfect Marguerite, and that was Christine Nilsson. It seems that she was especially created to give to lovers of opera the highest interpretation of two parts paracularly—Marguerite and Mignon. True, she was great in other roles, but in those two she was greatest. No one who ever saw her Marguerite, with its perfection of vocalization and its with its perfection of vocalization, and its dramatic power, will ever be satisfied with a lower standard of work. Melha technically sings the part in perfect form, but the feu sacre is lacking, and this deficiency is, of course, manifested in her acting. Only in the final trio did she approach the exhi-bition of any feeling, and this number excited the greatest enthusiasm of the even irg. So continuous and emphatic was the applause that it had to be repeated.

The second of the trio of great artists

heard last night was Campanari, who sang Valentine gloriously. This gentleman is probably the most satisfactory baritone now upon the operatic stage. There are those with bigger voices, but none with an organ of richer, more virile tone or one evidencing better cultivation. His aria in the second act was given with such artis-tic finish and such magnetic effect that it awoke the first spontaneous applause of the evening, and he declined to take the encore that was asked for. His dramatic power is also great, and his death scene in the third act was given with tragic force with-out being at all theatric. He and Krauss were easily the most popular members of the Damrosch-Ellis troupe. Boudouresque, the Mephistopheles, was a fewcomer, but he found favor from the first and proved himself an artist. He

first and proved himself an artist. His voice is rich and flexible, cantante rather than profundo, and he acted the part in extellent style. Ibos, who made his debut it this city as a tenor, was not an ideal "Faust," considered either from the musical or the dramatic point of view. His deher of the dramatic point of view. His de-livery is uneven, and its upper register is weak, judging from his habit of gliding in-to falsetto. His "Salve Dimora," the piece de resistance of a lyric tenor, was given in an unsatisfactory manner, but he had the discretion not to attempt the high C. Ai-though Toronta was advertised as Seibel,

the part was sung by Matfeldt, who did the Ryan in the stellar roles, with the best best with it in her power, which was not much. Viviani made an acceptable Wagner, and the chorus was good in some places and uncertain in others. The Kermess scene was never better done, but the great soldiers' chorus was allowed to go by with hardly a hand because of the lack of precision with which it was sung. The crchestra was under the direction of Mr.

LAFAYETTE SQUARE OPERA HOUSE. -Adroit stage management is involved in one episode of "Cumberland '61," which will be presented at Lafavette Square presented at Lafayette Square Opera House for one week, commencing next Monday. The problem of presenting a sen-sational fire scene without subordinating closure is appliated nightly. The view is along the windings of the gorge. In front and raised well above the stage is the bridge, with a roadway leading to the woods at left and right. Beyond are scattered and uneven tops of trees that root in the bottom of the chasm, and in perspective are distant and more thickly wooded sides. The gray of moonlight softens all The gray of moonlight softens all but the bridge and its approaches and makes indistinct for a moment the face of the old mountaineer, who, rifle in hand, awaits his enemy. On the hero's approach armed man is not, after all, to the mountaineer's notion, and he casts aside his weapon. The two men grapple. In their parley the glow of the fire is seen in the chasm beyond, and while they wrestle it increases and approaches until its smoke and glow envelopes them. At the moment that the younger man fells his opponent and reaches the other end of the bridge the heroine—the sweetheart of the one and the daughter of the other—begs that the old man be saved. So, amid an excellent counterfelt of consuming flames, the hero drags his antagonist off the doomed structure. Then the curtain falls and successive liftings of it disclose the structure in pro-gressive stages of consumption.

NEW NATIONAL THEATER.-There is no name upon which more indignity has been heaped, nor any name that has been responsible for more that is bright, clever and startling, than the dulcet name of Jones. It is doubtful, too, if there is any cne edifice large enough to hold all the Joneses there are in Washington, in which case the National Theater will be taxed to its utmost with those who will want to learn "What Happened to Jones." Mr. Broadhurst has constructed a farce which has run for three months in New York. Farces such as "What Happened to Jones" rairces such as what happened to Jones rely largely upon the people there are in them. They must not only be good players, they must be farce players. This farce has players who fulfill all requirements admirably. They are Geo. C. Boniface, Jr., George Ober, Wm. Bernard, Reuben Fax, J. W. Cope, Cecil Kingston, Harry Rose, Anna Belmont, Kathryn Osterman, Mattie Ferguson, Florence Robinson, Mrs. E. A. Eberle and Rose Stuart. The particular Jones represented in this farce seems to possess the Yankee versatility of being a drummer for playing cards, impersonating a bishop, and then exhibiting those touches. a bishop, and then exhibiting those touches of emotion that are the zest of every farce. for the truest fun is, in fact, that which dews every laugh with a tear. Contrast is

COLUMBIA THEATER.-The presenta tion of "The Passion Play" for a brief sea-son at the Columbia Theater, beginning Monday evening next, is awaited with the deepest interest, not only by the general public, but by clergymen and others inter-ested in the teaching of Bible history and the promotion of religious education gen-erally. The impression somehow got the promotion of religious education generally. The impression somehow got abroad that this most sacred of subjects was to be presented in dramatic form in Washington by living persons, and as a result Mr. Metzerott has had hundreds of inquiries under this head during the past week. This story of "the world's sublimest tragedy" will not, it is needless to say, be presented by living persons, but it will be given by means of Lumlere's enlarged and perfected cinematograph, or "moving pictures"—the very next thing, perhaps, to perfected cinematograph, or "moving pic-tures"—the very next thing, perhaps, to witnessing the "Passion Play" enacted by the simple, devout peasants of Horitz, in the beautiful Bohemian forests. The ab-sence of flesh and blood will only make the conception more spiritual, and it will certainly relieve it from any touch of ir-reverence. And still the play will be there reverence. And still the play will be there, exactly as presented at Horitz, called "the Austrian Ober-Ammergau," silently passing before the audience, and showing in minute detail, with every figure and gesminute detail, with every figure and gesture and muscular movement perfect, "the baptism of Christ," "Christ blessing the little children," the "resurrection of Lazrus," "Christ's entry into Jerusalem," "the Last Supper," "Christ washing His disciples' feet," "Judas receiving the thirty pieces of silver," "Christ in the Garden of Olives," "Christ before Caiaphas," "Peter denying Christ," "Christ before Pilate." "Christ before Herod," "scourging and condemnation of Christ," "the way of the cross," "the crucifixion," and so on to the resurrection, in many of these pictures from 100 to 400 figures are seen moving, especially in that showing "the way of the pecially in that showing "the way of the cross," which will give to those who witness it a new significance of the passion of the Christians. Over 80,000 of these pictures were necessary to make the perfect whole, and they were only secured after the weary waiting of years. Prof. Ernest Lacy, well known to literary men, and a ripe scholar and educator, will come from Philadelphia to deliver a descriptive lecture which is said to be a heartiful piece. ture, which is said to be a beautiful piece of word painting. A large pipe organ is being erected on the stage of the Columbla for the incidental music that will be played during the progress of the play. Afternoon presentations will be given Thursday and Saturday. The prices have been fixed as follows: Evenings, \$1, 75 cents, 50 cents and 25 cents; afternoons, 25 cents and 50 cents. A distinguished gathering of Washingtonians, including many elegypmen will witness the first program of the second s many clergymen, will witness the first pre sentation Monday evening.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—The Academy announces for its attraction the coming week the Rays in "A Hot Old Time." The author of the comedy is Edgar Selden, who author of the comedy is Edgar Seiden, who wrote McKenna's Flirtations, in which Barry and Fay starred for seven seasons, also had a run of over 300 nights in New York city. Mr. Selden's treatment of his latest comedy, which is called his best, is exhilarating and humorous, yet refined. The action is amazingly rapid and complications follow each other in such quick speeds of the season of the follow each other in such quick succession as to cause continuous laughter. The sit-uations are massed together so as to en-hance the interest, and around them all is an atmosphere of fun that is contagious and decidedly comic. Each situation is so excellently contrived that the merriment is excellently contrived that the merriment is continuous. The Rays—Johnny and Emma—have parts that afford them ample scope for their peculiar gifts of character portrayal which have given them their reputation. Nothing funnier in their line of work has been seen. Johnny Ray as Larry Mooney. Mrs. Emma Ray as Mrs. Gen. Stonewall Blazer, John C. Leach as Gen. Blazer, Bernard Dyllyn as Alkali Ike, Marshall and Nelson as the general's daughters, in a cast of rare individual and collective strength, are leading players. The lective strength, are leading players. The other parts are in capable hands. The comedy will be handsomely staged with new scenery, costumes and electrical and mechanical effects.

supporting company that has ever appeared in the piece. As a vehicle for the introduction of a high class vaudeville performance and the display of fascinating and grace-ful women, "McCarthy's Mishaps" takes a place in the front rank of farce comedies. Barney Ferguson and Sam. J. Ryan, the comedians, whose reputation is so well comedians, whose reputation is so well known, whose antics of true comedy acting and witty sayings, evoke shrieks of laughter; Chas. Eastwood, in songs and burlesque dances; Murphy and Mack, the eccentric duo, in Skezzies on the fence;" Lew Spencer, the famous negro dialect comedian and monologies artist in melections and and monologue artist, in melodies and dances; Harry Norman, baritone; Car-lisle sister; Cammilla Martin, the sweetvoiced soprano; Jas. W. Reagan, tenor; Steve Ferguson and others. Miss Cammilla emotional dramatic interest to the realism has been solved successfully by Mr. Pitou's handling of it. This episode starts with a picture by Homer Emmens that on disclosure is applauded nightly. The view is closure the windings of the gorge. In front state of the school of the most winsome and attractive of vocalists, and has a repertoire of new ballads. The tenor singing of Mr. Jas. W. Reagan is said to excel any vocalist, not only in vaudeville, but in light operators. opera, today.

> KERNAN'S LYCEUM THEATER.-Sam Devere's Own Company, one of the most popular vaudeville organizations on the road, comes to the Lyceum Theater next lumbia are made up from nine separate week. The list of entertainers, which ina number of stars of the vaudeville cludes a number of stars of the vaudeville world, is headed by Sam Devere, the original "Whistling Coon," who always has something new, and the latest sensation from Paris, the beautiful Mildred Howard De Grey, in her famous "barefoot passion dance." Other attractions are the Glessandos, grotesque musical clowns, from the Empire Theater, London; Prof. Parker and his troupe of educated dogs, who have twee his troupe of educated dogs, who have just finished a seven years' engagement in Eu-rope; Johnson and Dean, a "warm" pair of colored entertainers; Walter J. Talbot, the California tenor; Pearl Haight, known as the American Anna Held; Leonard and Bernard, a sketch team; Byron and Lang-don, a pair of up-to-date funmakers; Rice Brothers, in an original comic bar performance; Catheryn Rowe Palmer, the all contortion dancers; and an original farce written by Sam Devere, entitled "Peepo'-Day Club," which is supposed to be the
> name of one of the extremely numerous
> social organizations of New York city.
> Matinees Tuesday, Thursday and Xmas day.

FANNY DAVENPORT .- Fanny Daven pert will certainly be warmly welcomed at the National Theater, where she appears during the week of Monday, December 27. in Sardou's greatest efforts, "La Tosca,"
"Fedora" and "Cleopatra." Her ambition
has always been lofty, her zeal is untiring, her energy amazing and her audacit, and her generosity in the matter of making productions commend her to all who have the best interests of the stage at heart. Miss Davenport's productions stand comparison with those made by Sir Henry Irving, and she has clearly demonstrated in more than one instance that she has fermance that well nigh reaches perfection Miss Davenport will be supported by Mel-bourne MacDowell and a company of rare merit. Sale of seats will begin Thursday morning, December 23.

"SECRET SERVICE."-"Secret Service, which will be presented at the Lafayette Square New Year week by a company in-cluding its author, William Gillette, in the leading role, comes backed by a record of unequaled triumph, not only in New York and Boston, but in London, where every one who reads the dramatic news muskrow it created a positive sensation among all classes, from the Prince of Wales down. But Manager Charles Frohman is too fa-miliar with the independent and intensely American public of Washington to count on this fact alone to bring success to the play in this city. The play tells a story of travery and love and sacrifices. The story is based upon the intricate maneuvers and daring schemes of the men in the northern secret service. The love interest is centered about the romance of one of these men, with the daughter of a confederate general, and the climax of the play is said to be one of the strongest realiza-tions of the dilemma "twixt love and duty" that has ever been, presented in fiction or

"HUMANITY."—At the Academy New Year week the great dramatic success, "Humanity," with its elaborate scenic surroundings and thoroughbred horses and fox hounds, will be presented for the first time this season here. The play is one o great interest and strength, the comedy eing particularly well developed, and the climaxes are most thrillingly worked out. The cast is exceptionally strong, being the same that appeared during the original production in Boston last season, where it ian for four weeks to crowded houses. It is sure to meet with large audiences during its engagement in this city,

MISS VOCKEY'S RECITAL.-The dramatic and musical recital to be given by Miss Ellen Vockey at the National Rifles' Hall next Tuesday evening will be an en-joyable affair. Miss Vockey is known as an elocutionist of decided ability, and she has lately returned from a successful pro-fessional tour abroad. Among the reci-tations she will give will be one which was especially written for her, "The Choice of Arms," in which she will appear in fencing costume. Her work in this piece was highly complimented by the London press when she recited it at the Queen's Hall. The musical portion will include the Tuxedo Mandolin Club, Prof. W. Huber, pianist; Master Hunt, violinist; Misses McDade, Fannie Washington and Katherine Wilson, Arms," in which she will appear in fencing vocalists. The proceeds will be devoted to the poor of the District, and on this account also the attendance should be large.

PRINCETON GLEE CLUB.—The concert to be given at National Rifles' armory Thursday evening. December 23, by the Princeton University Glee, Banjo and Mandolin Clubs promises to be one of the musical events of the season. The Princeton clubs have always enjoyed a high reputation for musical excellence, and the clubs this year are reported to be superior to any that have represented Princeton on the concert stage for years. James H. the concert stage for years. James H. Caldwell of Titusville, Pa., leads the Mandelin Club, which consists of seventeen instruments. He has played in the Banjo and Mandelin Clubs ever since he has played. and Mandolin Clubs ever since he has been in college, and has turned out a club this year which bids fair to surpass the fine year which bids fair to surpass the fine record established by previous Mandolin Clubs. Among the best selections rendered by the club this year are a pot-pourri from the pcpular opera, "The Geisha," and the sextet from "Lucia di Lammermoor." The Banjo Club, consisting of sixteen men, is one of the best that has ever represented the college. It is led by Clinton G. Wells of Galveston, Texas, who was elected to the position last spring, after playing in the club since his freshman year. A medley of the popular negro airs of the day and Rosey's "Scorcher" are the favorite numbers played by the club. The business manager of the organization is Paul D. Stockly of Lakewood, N. J. Mr. Stockley also managed the freshman musical clubs in his freshman year. The assistant manager is Burrows Sloan of Philadelphia, a member of the junior class.

mandery, No. 2, the laster fact insuring at once an excellence rattendance. Mr. Hay is an entertaining talker, and will no doubt give many rew and interesting ideas about this wonderful scenery. The lecture is to be handsomely illustrated with a fine series of stereoptican views. Prof. Leo Wheat, the well-known planist of this city, will give a plano recital as a sort of introductory to the dectire.

DR. STAFFORD ON CITIZENSHIP.—
Rev. D. J. Stafford, D.D., the best-known orator and lecturer in this vicinity, will deliver a lecture on the subject "The Principle of American Citizenship" at the Columbia Theater tomorrow night. The lecture is given under the auspices and for the benefit of John F. Reynolds Post, No. 6, Grand Army of the Republic, and will attract general attention on account of Dr. Stafford's well-known ability as a lecturer, the appropriateness of his subject turer, the appropriateness of his subject at this time, and the fact that it is given for the benefit of a G. A. R. organization. This field in the lecture world is not new to Dr. Stafford, although he has confined a great deal of his time to dealing with Shakespearean subjects, and his admirers will find much in his lecture to meet with the sincere praise that he always obtains.

THE LYNDSAY COURSE.-The Lyndsay course of popular entertainments begins rext Monday evening, when the celebrated author. F. Marion Crawford, will deliver his new lecture, entitled "Leo XIII in the Vatican." Mr. Crawford is so well known that he hardly needs an introduction. His works have made for him hosts of friends works have made for him hosts of friends everywhere, and those in Washington who know him as a novelist will now have the opportunity to meet one who has entertained them by his pen. As a writer Mr. Crawford has a style that is interesting; always original and with the ability to portray character in a vivid manner and in a way that rivets the attention of the reader, he stands today probably the foremost American novelist. Central Hall. nost American novelist. Central Hall where the Lyndsay course is to be given, is situated over the 9th street wing of the Center market, with cars to the door, and it has been arranged in a most comfortable way for the patrons of this course. The sale of tickets for Mr. Crawford's lecture opened yesterday with the indications that a large audience will greet the lecturer. Seats may be had at E. F. Droop & Sons', 925 Pennsylvania avenue.

MARRIED WOMAN'S ACT.

Changes That Should Be Made to Secure Rights Both Ways. To the Editor of The Evening Star:

The laws in force in the District of Cohas been frequently pointed out by The Star, and no further argument is needed on that point. In some of the most vital concerns of daily life our laws are a hundred years or more behind the times.

The common law estates of dower and curtesy have been abolished or modified in a majority of the states of the Union; but they still exist in the District of Columbia, briefly stated, dower being the life interest which a wife has in one-third of her husband's real estate, and curtesy the life interest which a husband has in his wife's real property under certain conditions. The "married woman's acts" of 1869 and 1896 purport to give a wife complete control of her property; but no one will take the deed of a married woman without her husband's signature, nor is she generally accepted as surety on a bond. The act of June 1, 1896, accomplished nothing for married women in this respect. Transfers of real estate may be hampered in this way until dower and curtesy are abolished. Until 1896 a father could, by will, provide

that his infant child be taken away from its mother and given to a stranger. That barbarous law, which permitted the most cruel wrong which could be inflicted on a mother, was enacted in 1660 during the reign of the "Merry Monarch," Charles II. Under the law of 1896 the mother has equal rights with the father in the matter of marrianship, but the appreciation of the country is that his infant child be taken away from guardianship; but the prevailing opinion is that the mother should be preferred, espe-

cially in case of small children.

To remedy some of the defects in our ancient patchwork of laws, I submit the following proposed bill, which explains itself: A bill to abolish estates of curtesy and dow-er in the District of Columbia; to provide for the custody of the persons of children un-der fourteen years of age; to regulate the descent and distribution of the estates of intestates, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of

Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled: Section 1. That estates of curtesy and of

dower are hereby abolished.
Sec. 2. Any married woman may convey, devise or bequeath her property, or any interest therein, without the consent of her husband, and in the same manner as if she were unmarried. Sec. 3. Any married man may convey, de-

tise or bequeath his property, or any in-terest therein, without the consent of his wife, and in the same manner as if he were unmarried.

Sec. 4. The mother is the natural and proper guardian of the persons of her children under fourteen years of age, and her rights as guardian shall be preferred to those of the father and all other persons whatsoever; unless the mother is shown by competent evidence in open court to be a habitual criminal, a person of open and rotorious evil life and vicious character, or person of unsound mind, or unless said nother has been divorced from the father of the children because of adultry commitsed by her.
Sec. 5. When any person having title to

any estate, real or personal, not otherwise limited by marriage contract, dies without disposing of the same by will, said real and disposing of the same by will, said real and personal property is succeeded to and must be distributed, subject to the payment of debts, in the following manner:

1st. If the intestate leave a husband or wife and issue surviving, one-third of the estate, real and personal, shall go to the control of the state.

surviving husband or wife in fee simple, and the residue of the real and personal property shall go to the surviving child or children, or descendants of deceased chil-dren, the children taking equal shares, and the descendants of a child taking col lectively the share which their parent would have taking if living.

2d. If the intestate leave no husband or wife surviving, the entire estate, real and personal, shall descend and be distributed to the children surviving and the issue of deceased children, the children taking equal shares per capita and the issue of eceased children taking per stirpes. 3d. If the intestate leave a husband or 3d. If the intestate leave a husband or wife surviving and no issue, then one-half of the real and personal property shall go to the surviving husband or wife in fee simple, and the residue of the estate shall go to the next of kin in the order provided for in the following paragraphs of this act. 4th. If the intestate leave no husband or wife and no issue, then the entire estate shall go to the father and mother of the

intestate in equal shares; but if the father or mother be dead, all of the estate shall go to the surviving parent of the intestate 5th. If there be no issue, no husband or wife surviving, no father and no mother, the entire estate of the intestate shall go to his or her surviving brothers and sisters in equal shares per capita, and to the descendants of brothers and sisters who are dead, said descendants taking per

stirpes. 6th. If there be no husband or wife living, 6th. If there be no musband or wife living, and if none of the relatives above enumerated be living, the entire estate of the intestate shall go to the isurviving grandparents and the descendants of deceased grandparents; grandparents, male and female, taking equal shares, and said descendants taking peristirpes.

7th. If none of the relatives above named be living and there is no husband or wife surviving, then the entire estate of the intestate shall go to his or her nearest sur-

surviving, then the entire estate of the in-testate shall go to his or her nearest sur-viving lineal ancestors and to the descend-ants of those deceased, ancestors of the same degree, male and female, taking equal shares, and said descendants taking per stirpes.

Sth. Relatives of the half-blood shall in-Str. Relatives of the mani-plood shall inherit in the same manner as those of the whole blood in the same degree.

Sec. 6. The provisions of this act shall apply only to the District of Columbia.

Sec. 7. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are

sistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

In drafting this bill I have made use of some of the best features of the statutes of the most progressive states of the Union. No preference is given to males in the bill. It is hoped that residents of the District of Columbia will give their favorable consideration to this or some similar bill.

THOMAS W. GILMER.
Washington, D. C., December 14, 1897.

AMUSEMENTS.

Choral Society

First Congregational Church,

Cor. 10th and G Sts.

Tuesday, Dec. 28, 1897,

8 O'CLOCK P.M.

Assisted by

MME. DE DIAZ ALBERTINI, Soprano.
MISS FEILDING ROSELLE, Contraito.
MR. E. C. TOWNE, Tenor.
MR. ERICSSON BUSHNELL, Bass.
MR. JNO. PORTER LAWRENCE, Organist.

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

Mr. Josef Kaspar.

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WILLIAMS, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 8 P.M., Trinity Parish Hall, 3d st. and Ind. ave. n.w. Over 100 views. Sacred music by Prof. Schubert's Orchestra. Adm., 25c. N. B.—This lecture was postponed from Tuesday, 14th, because of inclemency of weather.

SFIRITUALISTS' BAZAAR-DEC. 16 TO 22, AT

Masonic Temple, 9th and F sts. n. w.

Masonic Temple, 9th and F sts. n. w.

THIS EVENING a splendid Musical Program—
Annie May Bacon, planist; Mrs. Gertrude Burnes,
vocalist; Miss Athalia Yengtin, cornet soloist;
Miss Grace Homen, accompanist.

Luncteons served today, 12 m. to 2 p.m., 15 cts.
Dinner served, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., 25 cts.
Exhibition of Spirit Phenomena and sale of
Christmas Goods, Dancing this evening. Exhibition of fancy dancing Monday evening by Miss
Virginia Luckett's pupils.

Lyndsav

MONDAY Dec. 20.

Course

F. Marion

Crawford.

"Leo XIII

Vatican."

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, AT 8,
BY ELLEN VOCKEY,
American Tragedienne,
Assisted by the Tuxedo Quartet, Prof. Chas.
Huber, Master Hunt, Miss Fannie Washington,
Miss Lulu McDade and Miss Katherine Heron.
Tickets, \$1.00, 50c, and 25 cts., for sale at
Droop's, Brentano's and Thompson's drug store,
de18-2t\*

RELICS OF AULD LANG SYNE.

Notes Issued as Money by C. and P.

Canal Company.

An interesting bit of past history of the

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company is

brought to light over the recent resurrec-

tion of a number of bank notes issued by

the corporation in its early life, by its own

authority, which were circulated quite free-

ly for a while and accepted as money, but

which were subsequently repudiated by the

corporation and became worthless. The

notes are now valueless and are kept only

as relics of by-gone days. The notes first

made their appearance in 1840. Some were

made payable in Frederick, Md., and others

in Washington. All issues were payable on demand, and bore interest, no rate being

named, but six per cent being usually un-

Thomas, then president of the corporation, and Thomas Turner, clerk, and were printed on but one side, a blank space being

left in each, in which the name of the own-

could be cashed by the owner or by any

bearer, and indorsements were not neces-sary on the back. The notes were issued in the denomniations of \$10, \$5, \$1, fifty

ents and twenty-five cents, and were all printed by Dunforth, Underwood & Co. of

The \$10 note bore the engraving repre-

senting a petition being presented to the legislature of Maryland by a committee,

with a Roman head on each side of the

same. On the right side, extending clear across the note, were the letters "Ten," the background of each letter being a Ro-

man head surrounded with scroll work. On the upper left-hand corner the denomina-

tion of the note in figures was engraved

and below this was a pastoral engraving.

The lettering on the note was as follows:
"Frederick, Sept. 9, 1840. No. 457, B.
Nine months after date the Chesapeake
and Ohio Canal Company promises to pay
on demand, at their office at Frederick,
Md., to Jacob Markell, or bearer, ten dollars with Interest from date."

The \$5 note bore a sketch of a set of locks in the canal, viewed from a distance, with

a figure representing agriculture in the

foreground. The lettering was the same at on the \$10 note. On the central left end

was an engraving representing a farmer driving cattle, and on the corresponding left side was a scene of a farmer loading

wagon with grain. The corners hore th

denomination of the note in Roman letters and figures. The 50 cents and 25-cent notes

had a picture representing an Indian in a

Some years ago some of these notes were

presented to the Georgetown office of the canal company to be redeemed. The clerks of the office never knew of such an issue of

stock, and were surprised to see them. They were willing to take the notes and frame them as relics, but were unwilling to

edeem them at their face value. A dollar

note at present, if paid, counting the in-terest, is worth about \$4.42.

WOOLLY WESTERNER BUNCOED.

Experience With a Wagos Which Resembled a Prison Van.

"What kind of a town is this, anyway?"

said a gentleman from the far west to a

Star reporter today. "They get unsuspect-

ing visitors who have not been doing any-

thing in the way of breaking any laws, so

far as is known, and start with them to the

station house by a method of transportation resembling that of street cars."

On being asked what he menat, the vis-

tor told the following hair-raising story: "Well, say, that was the funniest bunco

game I ever went up against, I was going

up in the northwest section the other night,

to visit a friend, and as I did not know the

way I asked somebody to tell me how to

get there. I was told to take something-

forget the name of the durned thing-and

that it would take me close to where I wanted to go on 16th street. It was a funny name, one I had never heard before, but I think it was an alias for the Black Maria, patrol wagon, or prison van. I sized the thing up all right, and climbed in the end.

The door shut to as I took my seat. I had only had four or five drinks, and I know that much could not have affected me.

"There was nobody in that thing but me. I sat there, and the wagon kept moving up the street. I called to the driver to let me out at the proper corner, but he knew his business and didn't pay any attention to me. I began to think things were getting pretty warm around there and concluded

pretty warm around there, and concluded

the best thing to do was to take a sneak. I tried to push the back door open, but they had provided for that all right. I couldn't

had provided for that all right. I couldn't move it. This is where my early training came in, and I didn't do a thing but bust the blamed doors open, and out I went on all fours. I was up again in a minute and around the corner I went till I was way off

from that place.

"I managed to find my way back to my hotel, but I ain't going to ride while I am in Washington. Walkin' is good enough for me, I reckon, and you don't run so many chances. I don't take any street cars, either; there's no telling where they

may land you."

The visitor said he had been buncoed once in Oshkosh, Wis., and he kept his eyes and ears open whenever he eame to a large city. He was here in reference to some government claim, he said.

lars, with interest from date.'

All of the notes were signed by Francis

derstood.

cars to Door.

AMUSEMENTS.

COLUMBIA THEATER Beginning Monday Next. Evenings at 8:15. Thursday and Saturday after

TOUR OF THE WORLD. The Austrian

Oberammergau Company



As Given by the Devout Peasants of Horitz, in the Bohemian Forests. Reproduced in "MOVING PICTURES" by LU-MIERE'S PERFECTED CINEMATOGRAPH. Accompanied by Music.

Direction of DR. W. W. FREEMAN.

DESCRIPTIVE LECTURE BY

PROF. ERNEST LACY. Prices: Evenings, 25c. to \$1.00. Afternoons, 25c. and 50c.

SOME OPINIONS OF THE PHILADELPHIA PRESS.

"There was something so extraordinary, so unearthly, so fascinating in the strange, silent pictures, with their moving, yet voiceless, crowds, that the absence of flesh and blood only made the conception more spiritual, and relieved it from any touch of irreverence."—Ledger.

"The most notable, and certainly the most noble, use to which that marvelous invention has yet been put. • • It was a demonstration, indeed, of the wonderful possibilities of this magic life photography, and proved to be an event which will remain ever memorable in the recollections of all who witnessed the realistic spectacle."—Record.

"No words could bring before the mind with like accuracy the scenes depicted."—Star.

"An ztraction of general interest, and profoundly so to church-goers of all denominations. The most perfect moving pictures • • reproduce with remarkable accuracy and living realism the scenes of this play as depicted by these devout peasants."—Times.

"Extraordinarily interesting and impressive. • • The most extensive and important development of the moving picture idea that has yet been accomplished."—North American.

"When the patient figure of the bound Carlst brought before Pilate, and surrounded by a menacing mob, appeared • • • the awful significance of the nimbe production of the world's sublimest tragedy fell upon the audience,"—Telegraph.

New National Theater. ALL NEXT WEEK. Wednesday and Saturday Matinees.

GEO. H. BROADHURST'S ROARING SUCCESS "18-karat comedy

ou'll laugh till the tears

"Such plays are

THE SAME COMPANY THAT DELIGHTED 113 460 PEOPLE IN NEW

Geo. C. Boniface, Jr., Geo. Ober, Wm. Bernard, J. W. Cope, Reuben Fax, Ceell Kingston, Harry Rose, Anna Belmont, Kathryn Osterman, Mattie Ferguson, Mrs. E. A. Eberle, Florence Robinson, Rose Stuart, Flora Hedden.

WEEK OF December 27, FANNY

AVENPOR

SARDOU'S

MONDAY and "La Tosca." WEDNESDAY. TUESDAY, "FEDORA." THUR., FRI., SAT. "Cleopatra."

SALE OF SEATS THURSDAY MORNING, DEC. 23, AT 8:30

Lafayette Sq. Opera House. J. W. Albaugh, Manager.
 Nixon & Zimmerman, Directors.

Commencing Monday, December 20.

Special Christmas Day Matinee. Regular Wednesday Matinee.

AUGUSTUS PITOU'S PRODUCTION.

"Cumberland, '61" By Franklin Fyles.

Presented with careful attention to detail. SEE THE SUPERIOR ORIGINAL CAST.
THE PERFECT SCENIC EFFECTS. Direct from New York after its run of fifty The cast comprises John E. Kellerd, Elgar L. Davenport, W. J. Ferguson, Frank Losee, Charles G. Craig, Liorel Barrymore, S. K. Ches-

MATINEE PRICES-Orchestra, 75c.; Balcony, 50c.; Family Circle, 25c. EVENING PRICES-25c, to \$1.50

Viola Black, Millie Sackett,

ter, Richard Malchien, Alvin Drehle, Richard Web-

ster, Florence Rockwell, Amelia Summerville,

Week of Dec. 27. Matinees Wednesday and New Year's Day. CHARLES FROHMAN PRESENTS "SECRET SERVICE."

THE GREAT NEW YORK AND LONDON SUCCESS.

Produced here with the entire original cast, Including: Wm. Gilletet ... as .. 'Lewis Dumont'

Seats on sale Thursday, Dec. 23. NEW NATIONAL THEATER. Every Evening and Saturday Matinee.

JAMESA.HERNE IN HIS BEAUTIFUL PLAY,

SHORE ACRES. What Happened to Jones.

Last Time in This City at Popular Prices, TWO LITTLE VAGRANTS.

ACADEMY. FOPULAR PRICES.

AMUSEMENTS.

CADEM

MATINEES WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY.

THE BLAZING LIGHTS OF LAUGHTER THE RAYS

All-star cast:

Johnny Ray.

Emma Ray.

Bernard Dyllyn, Frank Lalor.

Marshall and Nelson,

John C. Leach, Josie Claffin,

Pearle Alexander.

Gilbert Girard

16 others. 16

And

HOT OLD

TIME BY EDGAR SELDON.

Largest and Costliest Farce Comedy of the Year. Gorgeous Costumes. Entrancing Specialties,

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MATINEES WEDNESDAY AND XMAS DAY.

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FARCE COMEDY. Next Week-MINNIE MADDERN FISKE IN

Only Eight More Days The Biograph

WILLARD HALL. Christmas Day

Positively the Last.

SPIRITUALISTS' BAZAAR—DEC. 16 TO 22, AT Masonic Temple, 9th and F sts. n.w.
THIS EVENING the one-act comedictta, cn-titled "A Fair Encounter,"
TOMORROW EVENING a splendid Musical Program—Annie May Bacon, planist; Mrs. Gertrude Burnes, vocalist; Miss Athalia Yenglin, cornet soloist; Miss Grace Homen, accompanist, Lancheons served daily, 12 m. to 2 p.m., 15 cts., Dinners served daily, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.—25 cts., Exhibition of Spirit Phenomena and sale of Christmas Goods. Dancing every evening d15-62

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Mandolin Club's Concert. NATIONAL RIFLES' ARMORY,

Glee, Banjo and

THURSDAY, DEG. 23

Seats on sale at Droop's, 925 Pa. ave., 75c. and del6-7t COLUMBIA. TONIGHT-

Roland Reed, with the strongest support and the eleverest farce-comedy of his stellar career kept a large audience laughing for two hours and a half at the Columbia last night.—THE POST.

Roland Reed,

Accompanied by Miss ISADORE RUSH and His Excellent Company, in "The Wrong Mr. Wright," Was as balmy and mirthful as the zephyrs that play over the blue waves at Old Point Comfort, where the "Wrong Mr. Wright" disports himself in such a tide of humorous situations and witty lines the audience is tempted to call on the life-savers to rescue them from laughter.—THE TIMES.

Next Week-The Wonderful Moving Pictures of THE PASSION PLAY," de13-6t

Rev. D. J. Stafford, D. D.

WILL LECTURE AT COLUMBIA THEATER SUNDAY EVENING, DEC. 19, 8 O'CLOCK. SUBJECT,
THE PRINCIPLE OF AMERICAN-CITIZENSHIP

For the benefit of JOHN F. EYNOLDS POST, NO. 6, Department of the Potomae, GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

Admission, 50 cents. Reserved seats, 75 cents and \$1. Or sale at the box office. del3-6t GRAND OPERA HOUSE. KERNAN & RIFE, Managers,

MATINEES WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY,
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The Great New York Success, 4 months crowded houses and delighted audiences. THECHERRY PICKERS

By Joseph Arthur, author of "Blue Jeans," etc.

"Blue Jeans" was good, "The Cherry Pickers" is
better.—New York Press.

See the Great Thrilling and Realistic Gun Scown

"The great run scene succeeds in bringing down

The great gun scene succeeds in bringing down the house every evening."—New York Sun. A Superb Production.—Popular Prices. Next Week—McCARTHY'S MISHAPS. del3-6t KERNAN'S LYCEUM THEATER. All This Week.

Matinees Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Glittering Aggregation of Beauty and Humon VARIOTY FAIR BURLESQUERS ON COMPANY, del3-6t,15

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 Norfolk, Newport News and all points south
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Lv. Alexandria. 7:30 p.m. Lv. Norfolk..... 6:10 p.m.
Ar. Ft. Monroe. 7:00 a.m. Lv. Ft. Monroe. 7:20 p.m.
Ar. Norfolk..... 8:90 a.m. Ar. Alexandria. 6:30 a.m.
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del-28d JNO. CALLAHAN, General Manager.

mechanical effects.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—There is no stronger farce comedy on the road than "McCarthy's Mishaps," rewritten and up to date in every particular, which will be even at the Grand Opera House Christmas week, with Barney Ferguson and Sam. J.

MR. HAY'S LECTURE.—Mr. Edwin B. Hay will hold the boards at the Lafayette eyes and ears open whenever he eame to a large city. He was here in reference to some government claim, he said.

MR. HAY'S LECTURE.—Mr. Edwin B. Hay will hold the boards at the Lafayette eyes and ears open whenever he eame to a large city. He was here in reference to some government claim, he said.

The grand jury has reported indictments against the following: John E. Reeves, Wm. Chase, alias Charles Talbert, Frank L. Talbert and John Lee, alias William Thomas, all for larceny; George Wood and Henry will get an answer.

The nays, in the first of the eyes and ears open whenever he eame to a large city. He was here in reference to some government claim, he said.

The provided in the hoards at the Lafayette eyes and ears open whenever he eame to a large city. He was here in reference to some government claim, he said.

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